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EXAMINER	
PARRY, CHRISTOPHER L	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/502,499	STROTHMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	CHRIS PARRY	2421	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *23 August 2010*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Although a new ground of rejection has been used to address additional limitations that have been added to Claims 1, 7, and 13, a response is considered necessary for several of applicant's arguments since reference Goddard, will continue to be used to meet several claimed limitations.

In response to applicant's argument (Page 7, 2nd ¶) stating Goddard does not disclose presenting a user interface providing an option to display another rating sample, the examiner respectfully disagrees.

Applicant argues that Goddard is not an iterative training process. However, reading the claims in the broadest sense, Goddard does disclose that limitation in the claims. Goddard discloses presenting a user interface providing an option to display another rating sample (See Fig. 1, 102; user is given an interface to request another television media, e.g. changing channels); detecting user selection of said option to display another rating sample (See Figs. 1 and 3, user requesting another content; e.g. using keys 108 and 110); and responsive to detecting user selection of said option to display another rating sample, repeating, for another rating sample, at least said steps of accessing a rating sample, enabling reproduction of the rating sample, and detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample (See Fig. 3, this process

repeats each time the user requests content). Goddard's system repeats the process of Fig. 3 each time the user requests content. Therefore, the system disclosed by Goddard is an iterative training process.

Applicant is reminded that although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Claim Objections

2. Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities: On line 10 of Claim 7, "said television signal receiver system" lacks antecedence basis in the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-14, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Johnson (US 2003/0115592 A1).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art

under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Regarding Claim 1, Johnson discloses a method for personalizing rating limits in a parental control system of a television signal receiver system (see figs. 1 & 2), comprising:

accessing a rating sample having a first rating from a first ratings source (i.e., decoder 11 receives a signal comprising data for the interactive setup of ratings limits), from a rating sample database (12 – fig. 1) of said television signal receiver system (i.e., data for rating examples are decoded and stored in a rating examples database 12 from which they can be accessed later upon request by a user) (fig. 1; ¶ 0034);

enabling reproduction of the rating sample (i.e., in response to a command, processor 15 executes instructions contained in a ratings limits app 16 in order to provide rating examples) (¶ 0035 & 0045);

detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample (i.e., the user uses input device 13 to enter indications about the acceptability of the displayed rating examples) (¶ 0036 & 0053);

generating a first transition point based on the user input and the first rating (i.e., the system stores information regarding the rating level of the program, any content

ratings that may be attached to the program and the user's indication of acceptability) (¶ 0053);

using the first transition point to determine whether data associated with a rating from the first ratings source is output or blocked (i.e., the stored ratings data is compared to a selected program to track the rating level of the selected program to determine whether the program should be output or blocked) (¶ 0023; 0052-0055; & 0066);

presenting a user interface (fig. 4) providing an option (414 – fig. 4) to display another rating sample from said rating sample database [12] of said television signal receiver system (i.e., if user selects the Continue Setup button 414, the user is shown another ratings sample as shown in figure 5) (¶ 0053-0054);

detecting user selection of said option to display another rating sample from said rating sample database of said television signal receiver system (i.e., the system detects whether the user has selected to Continue Setup or to End Setup) (¶ 0053-0056); and

responsive to detecting user selection of said option to display another rating sample, repeating for another rating sample from said rating sample database of said television signal receiver system (i.e., when the user selects the Continue Setup 414 button, another rating sample is displayed to the user as shown in figure 5; ¶ 0053-0054), at least said steps of accessing a rating sample, enabling reproduction of the rating sample, and detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample, wherein the contents stored in said rating sample database were selected for

storage without user input and stored without user intervention, and wherein said rating sample database contents are distinct from user-recorded content (i.e., decoder 11 receives a signal comprising data for the interactive setup of ratings data and the rating examples are decoded and stored in rating examples database 12) (¶ 0034).

As for Claims 2, 8, and 14, Johnson discloses wherein the rating sample further has a second rating from a second source, and further comprised of:

generating a second transition point based on the user input and the second rating (¶ 0053-0055); and

using the second transition point to determine whether data associated with a rating from the second source is output or blocked (¶ 0023; 0052-0055; & 0066).

As for Claims 5, 11, and 17, Johnson discloses wherein the user input indicates the acceptability of the rating sample for one or more individuals (i.e., the user input indicates whether or not they would allow their child to watch the rated program) (¶ 0046-0053).

As for Claims 6, 12, and 18, Johnson discloses wherein the ratings sample comprises at least one of video data, audio data and text data (i.e., the description or "text" of the program is displayed to the user) (fig. 4; ¶ 0045-0053).

Regarding Claim 7, Johnson discloses an apparatus (see fig. 1), comprising:

rating sample database (12 – fig. 1) means containing rating samples (i.e., data for rating examples are decoded and stored in a rating examples database 12 from which they can be accessed later upon request by a user) (fig. 1; ¶ 0034);

interface means (13 – fig. 1) for detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample (i.e., the user uses input device 13 to enter indications about the acceptability of the displayed rating examples) (¶ 0036 & 0053), said rating sample accessed from said rating sample database means [12], said rating sample having a first rating from a first source (i.e., decoder 11 receives a signal comprising data for the interactive setup of ratings limits) (fig. 1; ¶ 0034);

control means (15/16 – fig. 1) for generating a first transition point based on the user input and the first rating (i.e., the system stores information regarding the rating level of the program, any content ratings that may be attached to the program and the user's indication of acceptability) (¶ 0053) and for using the first transition point to determine whether data associated with a rating from the first ratings source is output or blocked (i.e., the stored ratings data is compared to a selected program to track the rating level of the selected program to determine whether the program should be output or blocked) (¶ 0023; 0035; 0052-0055; & 0066);

means for (17 – fig. 1) presenting a user interface (fig. 4) providing an option (414 – fig. 4) to display another rating sample from said rating sample database [12] of said television signal receiver system (i.e., if user selects the Continue Setup button 414, the user is shown another ratings sample as shown in figure 5) (¶ 0053-0054);

means for (14 – fig. 1) detecting user selection of said option to display another rating sample from said rating sample database of said television signal receiver system (i.e., the system detects whether the user has selected to Continue Setup or to End Setup) (¶ 0035-0036 & 0053-0056); and

wherein the contents stored in said rating sample database were selected for storage without user input and stored without user intervention, and wherein said rating sample database contents are distinct from user-recorded content (i.e., decoder 11 receives a signal comprising data for the interactive setup of ratings data and the rating examples are decoded and stored in rating examples database 12) (¶ 0034).

Regarding Claim 13, Johnson discloses a television signal receiver (see fig. 1), comprising:

a rating sample database (12 – fig. 1) containing rating samples (i.e., data for rating examples are decoded and stored in a rating examples database 12 from which they can be accessed later upon request by a user) (fig. 1; ¶ 0034);

an interface (10/14/15 – fig. 1) operative to:

detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample (i.e., the user uses input device 13 to enter indications about the acceptability of the displayed rating examples) (¶ 0036 & 0053), said rating sample accessed from said rating sample database [12], said rating sample having a first rating from a first source (i.e., decoder 11 receives a signal comprising data for the interactive setup of ratings limits) (fig. 1; ¶ 0034);

present a user interface (fig. 4) providing an option (414 – fig. 4) to display another rating sample from said rating sample database [12] of said television signal receiver system (i.e., if user selects the Continue Setup button 414, the user is shown another ratings sample as shown in figure 5) (¶ 0053-0054);

detect user selection of said option to display another rating sample from said rating sample database of said television signal receiver system (i.e., the system detects whether the user has selected to Continue Setup or to End Setup) (¶ 0035-0036 & 0053-0056); and

a processor (15/16 – fig. 1) operative to generate a first transition point based on the user input and the first rating (i.e., the system stores information regarding the rating level of the program, any content ratings that may be attached to the program and the user's indication of acceptability) (¶ 0053) and to use the first transition point to determine whether data associated with a rating from the first ratings source is output or blocked (i.e., the stored ratings data is compared to a selected program to track the rating level of the selected program to determine whether the program should be output or blocked) (¶ 0023; 0035; 0052-0055; & 0066),

wherein the contents stored in said rating sample database were selected for storage without user input and stored without user intervention, and wherein said rating sample database contents are distinct from user-recorded content (i.e., decoder 11 receives a signal comprising data for the interactive setup of ratings data and the rating examples are decoded and stored in rating examples database 12) (¶ 0034).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Leung et al. "Leung" (US 2002/0095673 A1).

As for Claims 3, 9, and 15, Johnson fails to disclose wherein the user input indicates an MPAA rating.

In an analogous art, Leung discloses wherein the user input indicates an MPAA rating (¶ 0173). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Johnson to include wherein the user input indicates an MPAA rating as taught by Leung for the benefit of blocking a video signal based upon a widely used and known rating system.

As for Claims 4, 10, and 16, Johnson fails to disclose wherein the user input indicates a TV Parental Guidelines rating.

In an analogous art, Leung discloses wherein the user input indicates a TV Parental Guidelines rating (¶ 0172). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Johnson to include wherein the user input indicates a TV Parental Guidelines rating as taught by Leung for

the benefit of blocking a video signal based upon a widely used and known rating system.

7. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goddard (USPN 6,684,240 B1) [of record] in view of Leung et al. "Leung" (US 2002/0095673 A1).

Regarding Claim 1, Goddard discloses a method for personalizing rating limits in a parental control system of a television signal receiver system (see fig. 3), comprising:

accessing a rating sample (e.g. television media that is example content) (see fig. 3, 302) having a first rating (e.g. G, PG, PG-13, R, etc.) from a first rating source (Col. 1, lines 41-46 and Col. 5, lines 52-67);

enabling reproduction of the rating sample (Col. 1, lines 41-46 and Col. 5, lines 52-67);

detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample (i.e., the user inputs whether the example content is acceptable or not) (figs. 1 & 5; Col. 10, lines 15-45);

generating a first transition point (e.g. adjusting the acceptable content rating parameters) based on the user input (see fig. 5, user input) and the first rating (e.g., G, PG, PG-13, R, etc.) (Col. 7, lines 31-41); and

using the first transition point (i.e., the acceptable content rating parameters) to determine whether data associated with a rating from the first ratings source is output or blocked (fig. 3; Col. 7, lines 31-41);

presenting a user interface providing an option to display another rating sample (i.e., user interface 104 is presented to the user to facilitate a request for another television media, e.g. changing channels) (104 - fig. 1; Col. 4, line 31 to Col. 5, line 14 & Col. 5, lines 49-67);

detecting user selection of said option to display another rating sample (i.e., the user requests another channel or program using keys 108 and 110) (figs. 1 & 3; Col. 4, lines 31-45 & Col. 4, line 62 to Col. 5, line 14); and

responsive to detecting user selection of said option to display another rating sample, repeating, for another rating sample, at least said steps of accessing a rating sample, enabling reproduction of the rating sample, and detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample (i.e., each time a user views new content, the user has the option to block/unblock the content or to adjust the lock levels of the content) (fig. 3; Col. 5, lines 52-67 and Col. 7, lines 11-41).

However, Goddard does not explicitly disclose that said rating sample is accessed from a rating sample database of said television signal receiver system.

In an analogous art, Leung discloses a method for personalizing rating limits in a parental control system of a television signal receiver system (figs. 2-5), comprising:

accessing a rating sample (i.e., TV-PG Parental Guidance; see fig. 13) having a first rating (i.e., moderate violence rating factor) from a first ratings source (i.e., ratings data is extracted from the VBI of the television signal) from a rating sample database (i.e., RAM) of said television signal receiver system (¶ 0059-0060; 0064-0065; & 0103);

enabling reproduction of the rating sample (i.e., video mixer outputs rating sample on TV display) (¶ 0075 & 0103);

detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample (i.e., the user can review the rating sample and decide to make changes or to accept the current setting by selecting the Save and Exit option) (fig. 13; ¶ 0103);

presenting a user interface providing an option to display another rating sample from said rating sample database (i.e., RAM) of said television signal receiver system (i.e., user interface in fig. 13 is presented to the user to facilitate a request for another V-Chip Plus+ rating) (¶ 0104-0105);

detecting user selection of said option to display another rating sample from said rating sample database (i.e., RAM) of said television signal receiver system (i.e., the user requests another V-Chip Plus+ system rating) (¶ 0104-0105); and

responsive to detecting user selection of said option to display another rating sample (i.e., TV-MA Mature Audience Only), repeating, for another rating sample from said rating sample database of said television signal receiver system, at least said steps of accessing a rating sample, enabling reproduction of the rating sample, and detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample (i.e., the user can review the rating sample and decide to make changes or to accept the current setting by selecting the Save and Exit option) (figs. 13-14; ¶ 0103-0104), wherein the contents stored in said rating sample database were selected for storage without user input and stored without user intervention, and wherein said rating sample database contents are

distinct from user-recorded content (i.e., program rating data is downloaded and stored in RAM from the television signal or third parties) (¶ 0064 & 0060).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Goddard to access the rating samples from a rating sample database of said television signal receiver system, as taught by Leung for the benefit of expanding the capabilities of the system thereby providing storage the enables effective use of communication bandwidth.

As for Claims 2, 8, and 14, Goddard and Leung disclose, in particular Goddard teaches wherein the rating sample (e.g. the television media serving as example content) further has a second rating (e.g. TV-G, TV-PG, etc.) from a second source (e.g. TV parental guideline) (Col. 7, lines 53-66), and further comprised of:

generating a second transition point (e.g. equating the TV rating to a MPAA rating within the acceptable content rating parameters) based on the user input (fig. 5, user input) and the second rating (e.g. TV-G, TV-PG, etc.) (Col. 7, lines 42-66); and

using the second transition point to determine whether data associated with a rating from the second source is output or blocked (fig. 3; Col. 7, lines 31-66).

As for Claims 3, 9, and 15, Goddard and Leung disclose, in particular Leung teaches wherein the user input indicates an MPAA rating (¶ 0173).

As for Claims 4, 10, and 16, Goddard and Leung disclose, in particular Leung teaches wherein the user input indicates a TV Parental Guidelines rating (¶ 0172).

As for Claims 5, 11, and 17, Goddard and Leung disclose, in particular Goddard wherein the user input indicates the acceptability of the rating sample for one or more individuals (fig. 5; Col. 10 lines 15-45).

As for Claims 6, 12, and 18, Goddard and Leung disclose, in particular Goddard teaches wherein the ratings sample comprises at least one of video data, audio data and text data (i.e., wherein broadcast television and cable television inherently have video data) (Col. 3 lines 61-67).

Regarding Claim 7, Goddard discloses an apparatus (see fig. 3), comprising:

enabling reproduction of the rating sample (Col. 1, lines 41-46 and Col. 5, lines 52-67);

interface means (616 – fig. 6) for detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of a rating sample (i.e., the user inputs whether the example content is acceptable or not) (figs. 1 & 5; Col. 10, lines 15-45), said rating sample (e.g. television media that is example content; 302 - fig. 3) accessed, said rating sample having a first rating (e.g. G, PG, PG-13, R, etc.) from a first source (Col. 1, lines 41-46 and Col. 5, lines 52-67);

control means (602 – fig. 6) for generating a first transition point (e.g. adjusting the acceptable content rating parameters) based on the user input (see fig. 5, user input) and the first rating (e.g., G, PG, PG-13, R, etc.) (Col. 7, lines 31-41) and for using the first transition point (i.e., the acceptable content rating parameters) to determine whether data associated with a rating from the first ratings source is output or blocked (fig. 3; Col. 7, lines 31-41);

means for (612 – fig. 6) presenting a user interface (104 - fig. 1) providing an option to display another rating sample (i.e., user interface 104 is presented to the user to facilitate a request for another television media, e.g. changing channels) (104 - fig. 1; Col. 4, line 31 to Col. 5, line 14 & Col. 5, lines 49-67); and

means for detecting (602 – fig. 6) user selection of said option to display another rating sample (i.e., the user requests another channel or program using keys 108 and 110) (figs. 1 & 3; Col. 4, lines 31-45 & Col. 4, line 62 to Col. 5, line 14).

However, Goddard does not explicitly disclose that said rating sample is accessed from a rating sample database of said television signal receiver system.

In an analogous art, Leung discloses an apparatus (figs. 2-5), comprising:

rating sample database (i.e., RAM) means containing rating samples (¶ 0059-0060; 0064-0065; & 0103);

interface means (44 – fig. 4) for detecting a user input indicating the acceptability of the rating sample (i.e., the user can review the rating sample and decide to make changes or to accept the current setting by selecting the Save and Exit option) (fig. 13; ¶ 0103), said rating sample (i.e., TV-PG Parental Guidance; see fig. 13) accessed from

said rating sample database means (i.e., RAM), said rating sample having a first rating (i.e., moderate violence rating factor) from a first ratings source (i.e., ratings data is extracted from the VBI of the television signal) (¶ 0059-0060; 0064-0065; & 0103);

means for (50 – fig. 4) presenting a user interface (fig. 13) providing an option to display another rating sample from said rating sample database (i.e., RAM) of said television signal receiver system (i.e., user interface in fig. 13 is presented to the user to facilitate a request for another V-Chip Plus+ rating) (¶ 0104-0105);

means for detecting (46 – fig. 4) user selection of said option to display another rating sample from said rating sample database (i.e., RAM) of said television signal receiver system (i.e., the user requests another V-Chip Plus+ system rating) (¶ 0104-0105),

wherein the contents stored in said rating sample database were selected for storage without user input and stored without user intervention, and wherein said rating sample database contents are distinct from user-recorded content (i.e., program rating data is downloaded and stored in RAM from the television signal or third parties) (¶ 0064 & 0060).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Goddard to access the rating samples from a rating sample database of said television signal receiver system, as taught by Leung for the benefit of expanding the capabilities of the system thereby providing storage the enables effective use of communication bandwidth.

Regarding Claim 13, Goddard discloses a television signal receiver (see fig. 3), comprising:

enabling reproduction of the rating sample (Col. 1, lines 41-46 and Col. 5, lines 52-67);

an interface (602/616 – fig. 6) operative to:

detect a user input indicating the acceptability of a rating sample (i.e., the user inputs whether the example content is acceptable or not) (figs. 1 & 5; Col. 10, lines 15-45), said rating sample (e.g. television media that is example content; 302 - fig. 3) accessed, said rating sample having a first rating (e.g. G, PG, PG-13, R, etc.) from a first source (Col. 1, lines 41-46 and Col. 5, lines 52-67);

present a user interface (104 - fig. 1) providing an option to display another rating sample (i.e., user interface 104 is presented to the user to facilitate a request for another television media, e.g. changing channels) (104 - fig. 1; Col. 4, line 31 to Col. 5, line 14 & Col. 5, lines 49-67);

detect user selection of said option to display another rating sample (i.e., the user requests another channel or program using keys 108 and 110) (figs. 1 & 3; Col. 4, lines 31-45 & Col. 4, line 62 to Col. 5, line 14); and

a processor operative to generate a first transition point (e.g. adjusting the acceptable content rating parameters) based on the user input (see fig. 5, user input) and the first rating (e.g., G, PG, PG-13, R, etc.) (Col. 7, lines 31-41) and to use the first transition point (i.e., the acceptable content rating parameters) to determine whether

data associated with a rating from the first ratings source is output or blocked (fig. 3; Col. 7, lines 31-41).

However, Goddard does not explicitly disclose that said rating sample is accessed from a rating sample database of said television signal receiver system.

In an analogous art, Leung discloses a television signal receiver (figs. 2-5), comprising:

a rating sample database (i.e., RAM) containing rating samples (¶ 0059-0060; 0064-0065; & 0103);

an interface (44 – fig. 4) operative to:

detect a user input indicating the acceptability of a rating sample (i.e., the user can review the rating sample and decide to make changes or to accept the current setting by selecting the Save and Exit option) (fig. 13; ¶ 0103), said rating sample (i.e., TV-PG Parental Guidance; see fig. 13) accessed from said rating sample database (i.e., RAM), said rating sample having a first rating (i.e., moderate violence rating factor) from a first ratings source (i.e., ratings data is extracted from the VBI of the television signal) (¶ 0059-0060; 0064-0065; & 0103);

present a user interface (fig. 13) providing an option to display another rating sample from said rating sample database (i.e., RAM) of said television signal receiver system (i.e., user interface in fig. 13 is presented to the user to facilitate a request for another V-Chip Plus+ rating) (¶ 0104-0105);

detect user selection of said option to display another rating sample from said rating sample database (i.e., RAM) of said television signal receiver system (i.e., the user requests another V-Chip Plus+ system rating) (¶ 0104-0105); and

wherein the contents stored in said rating sample database were selected for storage without user input and stored without user intervention, and wherein said rating sample database contents are distinct from user-recorded content (i.e., program rating data is downloaded and stored in RAM from the television signal or third parties) (¶ 0064 & 0060).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Goddard to access the rating samples from a rating sample database of said television signal receiver system, as taught by Leung for the benefit of expanding the capabilities of the system thereby providing storage the enables effective use of communication bandwidth.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRIS PARRY whose telephone number is (571) 272-8328. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM EST to 4:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN MILLER can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John W. Miller/
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